GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2873
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005
PERMISSION TO ONGC FOR EXPLORATION
Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to grant permission for exploration in Mahanadi basin ;

(b) if so, the date when the proposal was received by the Government from ONGC and the possible effects on environment thereof ;

(c) whether the Government has examined the proposal; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMONARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir The Government has received two proposals from Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for exploratory drilling in Mahanadi Offshore Blocks (I) in Block MN-DWN-98/3 under New Exploration Licensing Policy

(NELP)-I and (II) in Block-MN-OSN-2000/2 under NELP - II in east coast of India and (2) Exploratory drilling in Mahanadi Offshore in east coast of India on 4.1.2005 and 5.1.2005 alongwith Environment Impact Assessment Report

(EIA) and Environment Management Plan (EMP). The anticipated impacts on marine environment including breeding/migration of Sea turtles and other marine biota are reported in the EIA report.

(c)&(d) : After due deligence, the Government has accorded environmental clearance to both the proposals on 17.10.2005 with adequate safeguards and strict monitoring mechanism to safeguards marine to biodiversity.